

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153405

FOL REPEAT OF TEHRAN 5787 TO SECSTATE INFO USUN GENEVA BEIRUT
JUNE 18

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 05787

DEPT FOR IO: STANLEY SCHIFF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV, ESCAP, EXWA, PLO

SUBJECT: ESCAP/ECWA REGIONAL MEETING OF UN HABITAT

REF: STATE 142524

1. USDEL MET WITH SYG HABITAT AND CHAIRMAN OF MEETING, HOMAYUN JABER ANSARI, BEFORE MORNING SESSION 18 JUNE AND EXPLAINED USG COULD NOT ALLOW PLO RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PASSED WITH APPEARANCE OF UNANIMITY. DRAWING ON REFTTEL, USDEL NOTED IMPROPRIETY OF PLO MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE ADOPTED BY MEETING AND EMPHASIZED THREAT TO WHOLE UN SYSTEM, AS WELL AN VANCOUVER CONFERENCE, OF A RECOMMENDATION TO EXCLUDE ISRAEL, A DULY CONSTITUTED MEMBER OF THE UN, FROM MEETINGS UNDER ITS SPONSORSHIP. BOTH GENTLEMEN WEE ALREADY AWARE OF DISRUPTIVE EFFECT OF PLO INTERVENTION AND SAID THEY WERE WORKING TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH ARABS

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WHICH WOULD KEEP ANY SPECIFIC CONDEMNATION OR REQUEST FOR

THE EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL OUT OF CONFERENCE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. CONFERENCE WAS DELAYED AN HOUR WHILE THEY NEGOTIATED WITH ARABS, USDEL TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO LOBBY WITH DELEGATIONS LIKELY TO OPPOSE PLO RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. BEFORE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER, CHAIRMAN CONFIDED IN USDEL THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED IN PRINCIPLE TO KEEP SPECIFIC MENTION OF ISRAEL OUT OF CONFERENCE REPORT AND HAVE ONLY GENERALIZED RECOMMENDATIONS CONDEMNING EFFECTS OF INVOLUNTARY MIGRATION. PLO RECOMMENDATIONS WERE TO APPEAR IN ANNEX TO MEETING REPORT.

4. DURING SHORT SESSION IRAQ REQUESTED THAT PLO DOCUMENT WHICH INCLUDED PLO RECOMMENDATIONS BE ANNEXED TO THE MEETING REPORT AND REINTRODUCED THE PLO RECOMMENDATIONS WORD FOR WORD, REQUESTING THEY BE INCLUDED IN THE BODY OF THE REPORT. MALAYSIA, THE MUSLIM LEAGUE ORGANIZATION, BANGLADESH, SRI LANKA, AND INDIA ALL SPOKE BRIEFLY IN SUPPORT OF THE IRAQI PROPOSAL. USDEL REQUESTED THE FLOOR TO DELIVER PREPARED STATEMENT FROM REFTEL BUT WAS PERSUADED PRIVATELY BY CHAIRMAN TO WAIT UNTIL 19 JUNE. HE EXPLAINED THAT IRAQ DEL FELT HE HAD TO ON RECORD AS HAVING INTRODUCED PLO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOME CONSUMPTION BUT THAT ARABS WOULD NOT ACTUALLY PRESS FOR THEIR INCLUSION IN BODY OF FINAL REPORT. CHAIRMAN WANTED TIME TO WORK OUT WORDING OF REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS ON INVOLUNTARY MIGRATION WHICH MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL CONCERNED. THE MEETING ADJOURNED UNTIL MORNING 19 JUNE WITHOUT ANY USEFUL CONSIDERATION OF SUBSTANTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH WAS THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF THE SESSION.

5. CHAIRMAN AND SYG WORKED UP FOLLOWING FOUR PROPOSALS TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THOSE OF IRAQ(PLO):(1) THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS THAT INVOLUNTARY MIGRATION IN RELATION TO HUMAN SETTLEMENTS BE TAKEN UP IN THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO: INVOLUNTARY MIGRATION OF ANY PEOPLE, IN TOTAL OR IN PART; THE CONFISCATION OF LAND IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WITH THE AIM OF REPLACING ITS INDIGENOUS OCCUPANTS; THE DEMOLITION OF ANY HOUSING OR PROPERTY AS A FORM OF PUNISHMENT; AND THE ALTERATION OF CULTURAL, HISTORICAL OR RELIGIOUS FEATURES
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IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS OF ANY SOCIETY. (2) THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION FROM THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE OF ANY COUNTRY IN CLEAR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE PROVISION OF THE RECOMMENDATION ON INVOLUNTARY MIGRATION.(3) THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS THAT THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE ENDORSE THE RIGHT OF DISPLACED PEOPLES TO BE RETURNED TO THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS OF THEIR HOMELANDS AS PART OF A GLOBAL HUMAN

SETTLEMENTS POLICY. (4) THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF HABITAT, IN COOPERATION WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECWA, PREPARE A REPORT FOR THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE ON THE SPECIAL HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROBLEMS OF WESTERN ASIA. (THESE ARE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH WHICH USDEL BELIEVES WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LIVE.)

6. AFTER SEVERAL HOUSE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARABS AND PLO REP, CHAIRMAN AND SYG CAME UP WITH FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE TO ARABS AND PLO:(1) THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS THAT INVOLUNTARY MIGRATION IN RELATION TO HUMAN SETTLEMENTS BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA OF THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE, AND IN THIS CONNECTION THE CONFERENCE CONDEMNS SUCH INHUMAN ACTS AS FORCING INVOLUNTARY MIGRATION OF ANY PEOPLE, IN TOTAL OR IN PART, ANY CONFISCATION OF LAND WITH THE AIM OF DISPLACING ITS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, THE DEMOLITION OF ANY HOUSING OR PROPERTY AS A FORM OF PUNISHMENT, AND THE ALTERATION OF CULTURAL, HISTORICAL OR RELIGIOUS FEATURES IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, ALL OF WHICH CONTRADICT THE SPIRIT OF HABITAT. THE CONFERENCE FURTHER RECOMMENDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EXCLUDE FROM THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE ANY COUNTRY WHICH DELIBERATELY COMMITS THE ABOVE ACTS WHICH ARE IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE HABITAT SPIRIT.(2) THE CONFERENCE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE STATEMENT OF THE OBSERVER MEMBER PLO, WHICH APPEARS AS ANNEX TO THIS REPORT, RECOMMENDS THAT THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE ENDORSE THE RIGHT OF DISPLACED PEOPLES TO BE RETURNED TO THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS OF THEIR HOMELANDS, AND FURTHER RECOMMENDS THE FORMULATION OF A GLOBAL HUMAN SETTLEMENT POLICY IN THIS REGARD.(3) THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF HABITAT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE-SECRETARY OF ECWA, PREPARE A REPORT FOR THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE
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ON THE SPECIAL HUMAN SETTLEMENT PROBLEMS OF THE HOMELESS AND DISPLACED PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. (THIS FORMULATION WAS THE LEAST PROVOCATIVE THE ARABS AND PLO WOULD AGREE TO, MEETS IRANIAN GOVERNMENTS REQUIREMENT THAT NO COUNTRY BE SPECIFICALLY CONDEMNED BY NAME, BUT MOST PROBABLY IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US AND SOME OTHER DELS.

7. USDEL BELIEVES THERE ARE THREE ALTERNATIVES OPEN TO US IN 19 JUNE SESSION, THE LAST DAY WHEN THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO BE ADOPTED:(1) ACCEPT THE NEGOTIATED FORMULATION SET FORTH IN PARA 6 ABOVE AS THE LEAST INFLAMMATORY SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS LIKELY TO COME OUT OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE ITEM OF INVOLUNTARY MIGRATION. (2) DEMAND A VOTE AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL AND DELIVER PREPARED STATEMENT PROVIDED IN REFTEL TO AN AUDIENCE DEMONSTRABLY SYMPATHETIC TO PLIGHT OF PALESTINIAN

REFUGEES. IT IS LIKELY THAT ARABS AND PLO WOULD THEN WITHDRAW THEIR AGREEMENT TO FORMULATION OF PARA 6 AND WOULD EM THROUGH BY A SIZEABLE MAJORITY THE ORIGINAL IRAQ(PLO) SET OF SEVEN RECOMMENDATIONS.(3) OFFER A THIRS ALTERNATIVE WITH LANGUAGE WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE SITUATION OF THE PALESTINIAN REFUGESS INTERMS ACCEPTABLE TO US AND LIKELY TO WIN A FAIR HEARING FROM THE ARABS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME DEFENDING THE RIGHT OF ALL UN MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE VANCOUVER CONFERENCE. WE ARE SURE DEPT IS AWARE THAT THE POORER COUNTRIES OF ASIA ARE SUPPORTING THE ARABS ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE SUBSTANTIAL MONETARY ASSISTANCE FROM SAUDI ARABIA, IN PARTICULAR, DEPENDS UPON THEIR DOING SO. (PARENTHETICALLY, WE MIGHT ADD THAT ALTHOUGH THE USDEL SUBMITTED A PAPER ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BEFORE THE THE CONFERENCE DRAWN FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S PREVIOUS TELEGRAMS, OUR VIEWS ARE NOT REFLECTED IN THE SOMEWHAT WEIRD COLLECTION OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE APPEARED SO FAR, AMONG THEM THE FOLLOWING: THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD COMBINE UNEP AND THE CENTRE FOR HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING AS WELL AS OTHER RELATED INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. THE DELEGATION OF SAUDI ARABIA INDICATED THAT COUNTRY'S PREPAREDNESS TO MAKE AVAILABLE ALL NECESSARY FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES NEEDED FOR ESTABLISHING THIS ORGANIZATION SHOULD IT BE DECIDED TO LOCATE IT IN SAUDI ARABIA.)

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8. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS TO USDEL TO BE RECEIVED IN TEHRAN PRIOR TO OPENINS OF BUSINESS 19 JUNE.
HELMS UNQTE INGERSOLL

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